

What is claimed is:

Claim 9. (Amended) A method of suppressing formation of memory cells of the immune system of a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering IL-15 inhibiting or eliminating compounds to the mammal.

Claim 10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein the memory cells are CD4⁺ T lymphocytes.

Claim 11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of an anti-IL-15 antibody, anti-IL-15R α antibody, fragments of these antibodies, soluble IL-15R α , fusion proteins comprising soluble IL-15R α and Fc fragment, compounds binding and/or inhibiting functional IL-15 receptor, IL-15 antisense oligonucleotides.

Claim 14. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 for use in the treatment of autoimmune diseases or in treatment before, during or after transplantation.

Claim 18. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 for use in the treatment of immune deficiency diseases or in treatment before, during or after vaccination.